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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir. I said such of the works as are included in the first stage are under execution. Orders for the supply and delivery of cast iron pipes and specials have already been placed. The work of laying the pumping main will be taken up for execution in 1954–55 after the receipt of the entire quantity of pipes and specials."

SRI A. GOVINDASAMY NAYAGAR :—" கடலூர் டவுனுக்கு தண்ணீர் கொண்டுவருவதற்காக எவ்வளவு வருஷங்களாக வரி வசூலிக்கப் படுகிறது ? இன்னும் எத்தனை ஆண்டுகளுக்குள் இது பூர்த்தியாகும் ? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The work was sanctioned in April 1953 and is in progress."

Malabar District Project Advisory Committee.

* 888 *Q*.—SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many meetings of the Malabar District Project Advisory Committee were convened and held from the date of its constitution on 2nd February 1953 up to 2nd February 1954 and on what dates;

(*b*) the subjects discussed and the decisions arrived at such meetings; and

(*c*) whether the Government have decided that with the constitution of the above Project Committee, no separate Planning Board need be formed for the district?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) One on 14th February 1953.

" (*b*) Measures necessary for formulating and implementing a programme of work were discussed and decided upon.

" (*c*) Yes."

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" May I know what are the measures that have been taken up till now? May I know whether the Government are satisfied that such a Committee which had not met even once within a period of 1½ years, will alone do for formulating schemes for a district like Malabar which has got many peculiarities? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Several schemes have been formulated. I would like to have notice if I should give the particulars about this scheme. I may, however, tell the hon. Member that I am not myself satisfied with this unwieldy committee, which is more or less like a Parliament and it is not possible to hold its meetings frequently when Members of the Madras Legislature are in Madras and when Members of the Parliament who are also Members of this Committee are in Delhi. Therefore, an Executive Committee has been formed and that Committee has met three or four times. I have been thinking whether we could not have a compact Committee in the place of this unwieldy Committee to advise the project work."

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SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" In view of the fact that the Hon. Minister himself has doubts about the efficient working of this Committee and as a small compact Committee to look after the development projects in the same manner as the planning boards existing in other districts, will be more useful, will the Government be pleased to consider the constitution of a planning board in the district? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I am afraid even the district planning boards in the districts where there are community projects, are equally unwieldy. I have been thinking of a more compact Committee which could do work expeditiously and efficiently."

SRI S. C. VIRUPAKSHIAH :—" May I know the basis on which these project committees are constituted? As soon as they are formed, will they automatically oust the planning boards? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" The Hon. Minister said that the Executive Committee met three or four times. Will the Government see that at least the minutes and the decisions arrived at the meetings of the Committee are communicated to the Members of the Project Advisory Committee? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I shall consider that suggestion."

* 889 *Q.*—Please see page 283.

Issue of permits for bus routes.

* 890 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM (on behalf of Sri M. Dharmalingam) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of permits for bus routes issued during the year 1953–54 ;

(*b*) the number of permits issued to Harijans; and

(*c*) the conditions for the issue of such permits?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) 76.

" (*b*) Nil.

" (*c*) In deciding to grant or refuse a stage carriage permit the Transport authorities are guided by the following considerations set forth in section 47 (1) of the Motor Vehicles Act :—

(i) the interest of the public generally;

(ii) the advantages to the public of the service to be provided including the saving of time likely to be effected thereby and any convenience arising from journeys not being broken;

(iii) the adequacy of existing road passenger transport services between the places to be served and the fares charged by those services;